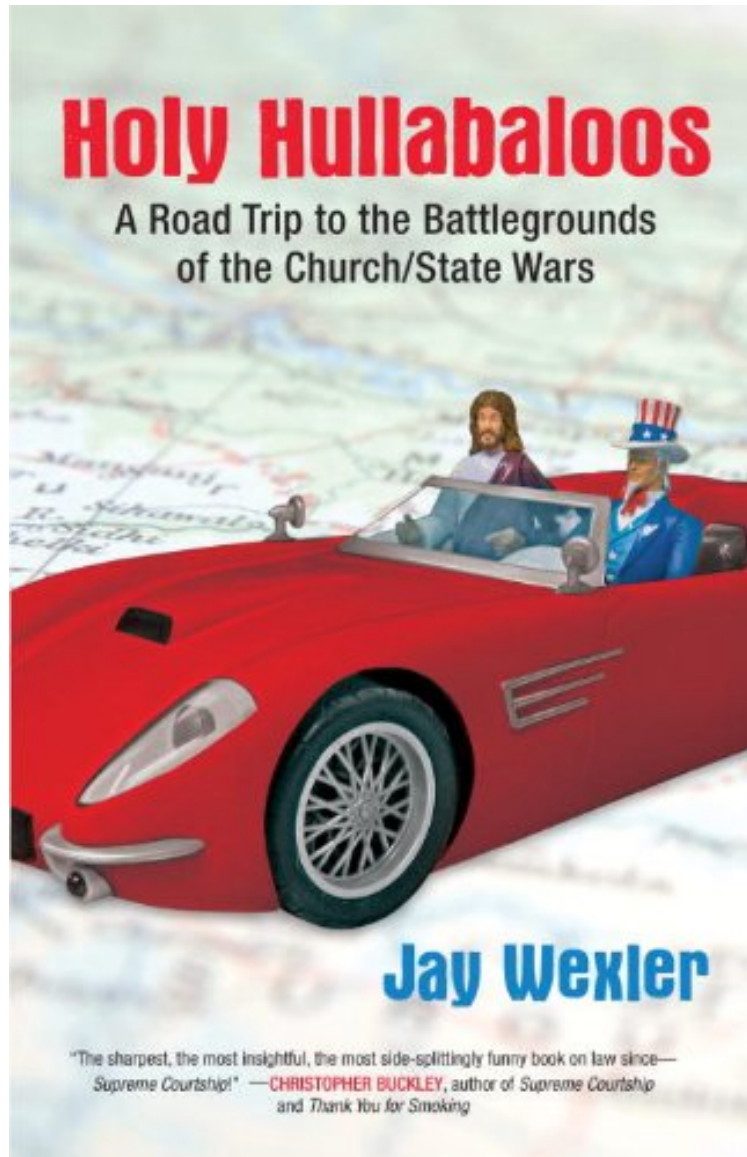


# Holy Hullabaloes: A Road Trip to the Battlegrounds of the Church/State Wars

Jay D. Wexler

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Jay D. Wexler : Holy Hullabaloes: A Road Trip to the Battlegrounds of the Church/State Wars before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Holy Hullabaloes: A Road Trip to the Battlegrounds of the Church/State Wars:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. More entertaining than educationalBy Trey MorrisThis was an

entertaining book that presents readers with a bird's-eye view of how law and religion have clashed in American jurisprudence. It is not a technical treatment at all, and does a very good job of making the people whose names headed the Supreme Court decisions accessible. The book has the feel of a Travel Channel series and sometimes focuses a little too much on the author's story rather than the stories of the litigants, but it is an easy, enjoyable read that might teach you a little bit about the law along the way. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great book. Easy read. Enjoyed every minute of the road trip. By Ali Jalili I'll admit it -- I read books very rarely. But I'm interested in church/state issues so I was drawn to this title when I came across it. Jay Wexler is a terrific writer and has presented the issues with two qualities unfortunately lacking in public policy discussions -- reason and humor! His humor and easy-to-follow presentation of legal issues make the book a very quick read. The road trip also introduces the reader to corners of America most of us will never visit or know. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in the church/state debate. Even if you're not, there is a giggle on every page. Who can't use a little laughter? Wexler has even interested me in reading more books! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Legal issues but readable, part travelogue. By ollb The book is about various church-state separation legal cases and he makes them surprisingly interesting and entertaining reading. He traveled to the various places associated with the cases and spoke with people involved.

After ten years spent riddling over the intricacies of church/state law from the ivory tower, law professor Jay Wexler decided it was high time to hit the road to learn what really happened in some of the most controversial Supreme Court cases involving this hot-button issue. In *Holy Hullabaloo*, he takes us along for the ride, crossing the country to meet the people and visit the places responsible for landmark decisions in recent judicial history, from a high school football field where fans once recited prayers before kickoff to a Santeria church notorious for animal sacrifice, from a publicly funded Muslim school to a creationist museum. Wexler's no-holds-barred approach to investigating famous church/state brouhahas is as funny as it is informative.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . Boston University law professor Wexler is also a published humorist. This felicitous combination of talents is put to good use as he visits the towns and cities where the always controversial cases concerning separation of church and state arise. Wexler's lucid explications of difficult constitutional concepts and the vagaries of Supreme Court rulings are superb, providing readers a deeper understanding of the First Amendment and Supreme Court jurisprudence. But that's only half the story. Wexler is laugh-out-loud funny as he narrates his odyssey through battleground sites from rural Wisconsin through Texas to the chambers of the U.S. Senate. Along the way he happily and with a usually generous spirit skewers Supreme Court justices, legislators, educators, law school professors and pretty much anyone else, including himself, who has ever taken a position on the enduring American controversies surrounding prayer in schools, religious displays on public property, or the teaching of evolution. This is a rare treat, a combination of thoughtful analysis and quirky humor that illuminates an issue that rarely elicits a laugh—and that is central to the American body politic. (June) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. I've read a lot of entertaining travelogues and informative studies of Supreme Court cases, but never at the same time. Think Sarah Vowell's *Assassination Vacation* meets Peter Irons' *The Courage of Their Convictions*. Thank God for *Holy Hullabaloo*.—Pamela Karlan, founding director of the Supreme Court Litigation Clinic at Stanford University "Religion and politics are the two things we are not supposed to talk about. Jay Wexler does—with deadpan humor. We need to tone down the anger over these issues, and he shows the way."—Alan Wolfe, author of *Does American Democracy Still Work?* "The sharpest, the most insightful, the most side-splittingly funny book on law since—*Supreme Courtship!*" —Christopher Buckley, author of *Supreme Courtship* and *Thank You For Smoking* "A fascinating and frequently funny journey through many of the sites of the greatest church and state squabbles in modern American history."—Barry Lynn, author of *Piety Politics* About the Author Jay Wexler is a Professor at the Boston University School of Law, where he has taught since 2001. Prior to teaching, Wexler studied religion at the University of Chicago Divinity School and law at Stanford Law School. After law school, he worked as a clerk to Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg at the U.S. Supreme Court and then as a lawyer in the Office of Legal Council at the Department of Justice. He has published nearly twenty academic articles, essays, and reviews, as well as nearly three dozen short stories and humor pieces, in places like *The Boston Globe*, *Spy*, *Mental Floss*, and *McSweeney's*. His first book was *Holy Hullabaloo*.